REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32, 34-36, 39, 40, 43, 45-51, 53-57 and 76-101 are pending in the application. Claims 33, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 52 and 58-75 have been cancelled.

The allowance of claims 76-79 is noted with appreciation, as is the allowance of claims 33-35 and 52 subject to being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 45 have been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claims 33 and 52, respectively, which have been cancelled. Also allowable claims 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 1 as has claim 36, and claim 53 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 45. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8, 11-32, 34-36, 39, 40 and 43 are now presumed allowable, as are claim 45 and its dependent claims 46-48, 51 and 53-57.

This leaves claims 9, 10, 49, 50 and 80-101 for further consideration.

Claims 9, 10, 49 and 50 are objected to allegedly because the disposition of the lamps at two separate end surfaces opposed to one another renders multiple interpretations which would not suggest opposite ends only, but also multiples on the same side at opposed ends. To overcome this objection, claims 9, 10, 49 and 50 have been amended to make it clear that the at least two input edges are at different end or side edges of the panel member for receiving light at the different end or side edges from at least two different light sources to obtain the at least one output distribution. Since this is the only objection raised with respect to these claims, and claims 9 and 49 have been amended to include all of the limitations of previous claims 1 and 45 from which they depended, claims 9, 10, 49 and 50 are submitted as clearly allowable.

New claim 80 is directed to an optical assembly including a light emitting panel member having at least one input edge for receiving light from at least one light source, and at least one pattern of individual optical deformities on or in at least one surface area of a panel member, at least some of the optical deformities have a length and width that are quite small in relation to the length and width of the one surface area of the panel member. Also as claimed, the at least one pattern of individual optical deformities produces at least two light output distributions, one that is generally uniform and provides illumination for a display, and the other that is located within the one light output distribution to create a watermark, security marking, label or other effect within the one light output distribution having the form or shape of text, graphics, logo or image when viewed through the display, in a manner clearly nowhere disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references.

Lan (U.S. Patent 5,075,826) discloses an optical assembly including at least one light emitting panel member having at least one light input edge for receiving light from at least one light source, and at least one pattern of individual optical deformities having a length and width that are quite small in relation to the length and width of one surface area of the panel member for producing at least one light output distribution from the panel member having the form or shape of text, graphics, logo or image. However, the pattern of individual optical deformities of Lan does not provide one light output distribution that is generally uniform and provides illumination for a display, and an other light output distribution that is located within the one light output distribution to create a watermark, security marking, label or other effect within the one light output distribution having the form or shape of text, graphics, logo or image when viewed through the

display as recited in claim 80. As described, for example, in the first paragraph on page 25 of the present application, this allows the one light output distribution of a panel member 171 such as shown in Fig. 50 to be used to backlight a display 186 such as a liquid crystal display as shown in Fig. 51 and the design/image output distribution 175 to be placed in a corner of the panel member as shown in Fig. 50 so that the design/image will be viewable in a corner of the display 186 as shown in Fig. 51 to create, for example, a "corporate presence" on the display without obscuring images or other data being displayed on the display.

Pristash et al (U.S. Patent 5,005,108) teaches that the light output pattern or uniformity of light output from different output regions of a light emitting panel member may be controlled by varying the shape, depth and frequency of the deformities relative to the input light ray distribution, and that the angles and/or depth of these deformities may be varied along the length of the panel to produce uniform or other desired light output from the panel. However, this is no way discloses or suggests applicants' novel claimed light emitting panel member including, *inter alia*, at least one pattern of individual optical deformities on or in at least one surface area of the panel member for producing at least one light output distribution from the panel member that is generally uniform to provide illumination for a display, and an other light output distribution within the one light output distribution to create a watermark, etc. within the one light output distribution when viewed through the display. Accordingly, claim 80 is submitted as clearly allowable.

Claims 81-95 depend from claim 80 and are submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons. Moreover, at least claims 81-86, 89, 90 and 92-95

recite other novel features in the claimed combination. Claim 81 recites that at least some of the optical deformities of the at least one pattern are varied in rotation or type. Claims 82 and 84 recite that the panel member has input edges at different end or side edges or opposite ends of the panel member for receiving light from at least two different light sources. Also claims 83, 85 and 86 recite that the input edges receive light from at least two different colored light sources and that at least some of the deformities are shaped or oriented preferentially to cause the different colored light received by the different input edges to create at least one multicolored output distribution or at least two output distributions of different colors. Claim 89 recites that the at least one pattern of individual optical deformities is on or in both sides of the panel member. Also claims 90 and 92 recite that the at least one and the other light output distributions (or at least parts thereof) are produced by the optical deformities on or in the opposite sides of the panel member. Claim 93 recites that the other light output distribution creates a logo in the one light output distribution when viewed through the display. Also claims 94 and 95 more particularly recite that the display overlies one of the sides of the panel member, and that both light output distributions are visible when viewed through the display from the one side, which as recited in claim 95 is a liquid crystal display.

Claim 96 is similar to claim 80 but recites at least two patterns of individual optical deformities on or in at least one surface area of the panel member, one of the patterns producing at least one light output distribution from the panel member that is generally uniform and provides illumination for a display, and the other pattern producing another light output distribution that is located within the one light output

distribution to create a watermark, etc., within the one light output distribution having a form or shape of text, graphics, logo or image when viewed through the display, and is submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons.

Claims 97-101 depend from claim 96 and are submitted as allowable for substantially the same reasons in addition to reciting other novel features in the claimed combination. Claim 97 recites that at least some of the optical deformities of at least one of the patterns are varied in rotation or type; claims 98 and 99 recite that the panel member has at least two input edges at different end or side edges of the panel member for receiving light from at least two different light sources; claim 99 additionally recites that the different light sources are different colored light sources, and that at least some of the deformities are shaped or oriented preferentially to cause the different colored light received by the different input edges to create at least one multi-colored output distribution; and claims 100 and 101 more particularly recite that the display overlies one of the sides of the panel member, and that both light output distributions of the panel member are visible when viewed through the display from the one side, which may be a liquid crystal display as further recited in claim 101.

For the foregoing reasons, this application is now believed to be in condition for final allowance of all of the pending claims 1-32, 34-36, 39, 40, 43, 45-51, 53-57 and 76-101, and early action to that end is respectfully submitted. Should the Examiner disagree with applicants' attorney in any respect, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney in an effort to resolve such differences.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for the extension of time

and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this reply, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Attorney Docket No. GLOLP0108USG).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By _____
Donald L. Otto
Registration No. 22,125

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2191
Phone: 216-621-1113
Fax: 216-621-6165

Z:\SEC177\GLOL\P108USG\REPLY TO OA OF 5-3-05.wpd